



BTU ©

Regular Board of Directors MEETING NOTES | July 9, 2024

Joint City of Bryan City Council and BTU Board Meeting

The City of Bryan City Council and the BTU Board conducted a joint meeting to discuss recent accomplishments, goals, and budgets.

Furniture Purchase for New Administration Building

The Board approved a contract with Koll Office Interiors for the purchase and installation of furniture for the new Administration Building.

Contract Extension for Underground Utility Location Services

The Board approved a contract extension with Private Solutions, LLC for underground utility location services.

Rayburn Substation Line Addition and System Reconfiguration Project

The Board approved a contract with M&S Engineering for design and engineering services for projects at the Rayburn Substation.



Downtown Bryan



BTU KIOSKS

Pay using cash, card or check at any one of our three convenient locations by entering your account number, listed on either your bill or your reminder letter, or by scanning a keycard provided by BTU. Keycards can be requested in the BTU main office.

KIOSK LOCATIONS

- BTU Drive Thru – open 24 hours
- HEB at Texas Ave. & Hwy 21 – open 6am-12am
- HEB in the Tejas Center – open 6am-12am

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

btutilities.com

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM

Board of Directors

Ms. Rosemarie L. Selman, Chair

Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr., Vice Chair

Mr. Paul Madison, Sr., Secretary

Mr. John A. Bond

Mr. Andrew Nelson

Mr. A. Bentley Nettles

Mr. Buppy Simank

Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio

Mr. Kevin Boriskie, Ex-Officio

General Manager

Gary Miller

Executive Directors

Doug Lyles

Randy Trimble

Wes Williams

David Werley, Chief Business Officer

Division Managers

James Bodine

Nick Cook

Shawndra Curry

Ken Lindberg

Clay Lindstrom

Gary Massey

City of Bryan

Kean Register, City Manager

Katherine Tapscott, Chief Financial Officer

Important Numbers

Billing/Collections/Connects

(979) 821-5700

Electrical Outage/Lines Down

(979) 822-3777

Line Design

(979) 821-5770

Social Media

[BryanTexasUtilities](https://www.facebook.com/BryanTexasUtilities)



[BTU_BryanTX](https://twitter.com/BTU_BryanTX)



[cityofbryan](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqYofbryan)



SEPTEMBER

- NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September is National Preparedness Month, a time dedicated to encouraging families and communities to plan for emergencies. Whether it's a natural disaster, a power outage, or a personal crisis, being prepared can make all the difference.

Which item is NOT essential in an emergency kit?

- A) Water
- B) Non-perishable food
- C) Entertainment items (cards, games, etc.)
- D) First-aid kit

What should your family communication plan include?

- A) Meeting places
- B) Contact information for each family member
- C) Emergency contacts
- D) All of the above

How much water should you store per person for an emergency?

- A) 1 gallon per person per day for 3 days
- B) 1 quart per person per day for 3 days
- C) 5 gallons per person per day for 3 days
- D) 1 liter per person per day for 3 days

True or False: It's important to have copies of personal documents in your emergency kit.

- A) True
- B) False

Which is a good source for local emergency alerts?

- A) Social media
- B) Local news stations
- C) Official government websites
- D) All of the above

Use this month to review and improve your plans.

Stay safe, stay ready!



ADOBE STOCK ©



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Answers:

C) Entertainment items • D) All of the above • A) 1 gallon per person per day for 3 days • A) True • D) All of the above

COLLEGE FIRE SAFETY

College life is exhilarating. For many students, it marks the first time they're truly independent, but this newfound freedom comes with numerous safety hazards in dormitories, apartments, and other shared living spaces. Even if you were safety-conscious at home, living on your own requires developing and practicing new safety habits—ones that could save your life.

ADOBE STOCK ©

PRIORITIZE FIRE SAFETY

ANNUAL AVERAGE OF
3,379
STRUCTURE
FIRES



ADOBE STOCK ©

Fire is the third leading cause of accidental deaths in the U.S. From 2017 to 2021, fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 3,379 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and similar buildings. On average, a residential fire occurs every 88 seconds, and once ignited, the size of a fire can double every 30 seconds.

If a fire breaks out in your building, evacuate immediately. Do not attempt to put the fire out yourself—it's a risk that's not worth taking. Follow your escape plan at the first sign or smell of fire. Never exit through a door that feels hot, as there may be flames on the other side. It's also crucial to know the location of fire extinguishers in your building.

START WITH PREVENTION

In communal living spaces, everyone plays a role in maintaining safety. Here are some simple steps to help prevent fires, especially those caused by electrical hazards:



Only purchase appliances with the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) mark or similar safety certifications.



Look for dorms or off-campus housing with a functioning sprinkler system.



Make sure you and your roommates know your dorm or housing's safe meeting place in case of an emergency.

Ensure you can hear the building's alarm system from your dorm room.



Ensure building management has installed smoke alarms on each level, in each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area, and that they are maintained and tested regularly.

Never remove batteries, cover, or disable a smoke alarm.

Do not overload electrical outlets.

Regularly check electrical wires and cords for wear or fraying.



Never run electrical wires or extension cords under carpets or heavy items, and avoid bunching them behind hot appliances.



Unplug appliances when they're not in use.

Refrain from using candles in dorms; open flames can easily ignite nearby items.



Ensure all exits, hallways, and stairwells are free of obstructions to facilitate a quick and safe escape if needed.

Check your school's policies on using cooking appliances in your room. In dorms, six out of seven fires are started by cooking.



By making fire safety a priority and following these prevention tips, you can enjoy your college experience while keeping yourself and your fellow students safe.

KEY
SAFE
FIRE
COLLEGE

BTU HISTORY

1919: *Our Origin*

The story of Bryan Texas Utilities officially began in 1919, but its roots trace back to a pivotal event a decade earlier. In 1909, a devastating fire razed Bryan City Hall and Opera House. The failure of the privately owned Bryan Ice, Water & Light Company to extinguish the blaze catalyzed the City of Bryan to take decisive action. The city purchased the utility facilities, marking the inception of a municipally owned and operated utility system. Over the next decade, Bryan invested in building distribution systems, installing generators, and illuminating streets. By 1919, Bryan Public Utilities was officially owned by the citizens of Bryan, serving approximately 768 customers.

THE ROARING '20S: *Lights, City, Expansion*

The 1920s were a time of growth and modernization. Between 1921 and 1925, streetlights were installed in various residential areas, including east and west 26th Street, and the vicinities of Bryan Hospital and Fannin School. As Bryan's population surged, the city commissioners recognized the need for expanded electricity generation. In 1925, the city power plant ordered an additional generation unit to meet the rising demand.

POST-DEPRESSION: *Electrifying Rural Texas*

As the Great Depression waned and public works projects surged nationwide, the City of Bryan joined the effort to electrify rural areas. In 1938, the city secured a loan from the Rural Electric Administration (REA) to establish a Rural Electric division. The installation of about 800 miles of power lines enabled BTU to serve customers in rural Brazos, Burleson, and Robertson counties, extending as far west as Tunis in Burleson County and as far north as Wheelock in Robertson County.

THE BABY BOOM: *Growth Demands More Power*

Post-World War II America saw the rise of the baby boom generation, driving population growth and technological advancements. To meet the increasing electricity demands, the Bryan Municipal Power Plant was built on Atkins Street and began operations in 1949 with one steam electric unit. Over time, this plant expanded to house seven generating units.

1962: *Growth and Value*

By 1962, BTU had more than 12,000 City and Rural customers. Despite the costs of expansion, a local newspaper ad read, BTU "residential rates are LOWER today than they were 43 years ago!"

IMAGE - CARNEGIE HISTORY CENTER / BRYAN, TEXAS ©

CREDIT: NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

IMAGE - CARNEGIE HISTORY CENTER / BRYAN, TEXAS ©



THE '70S: *Adding a Power Plant... and a Lake*

The 1970s marked a significant milestone with the commissioning of the Roland C. Dansby Power Plant in 1978, five miles north of Bryan. This modern facility featured a steam unit powered by natural gas and a fuel-oil backup system. Lake Bryan was created as a cooling source for the plant and has since become a popular destination for outdoor activities such as fishing, boating, hiking, and biking.

THE '80S: *Texas Municipal Power Agency*

In the early 1980s, BTU partnered with municipally owned utilities in Garland, Greenville, and Denton to form the Texas Municipal Power Agency (TMPA). Together, they built the Gibbons Creek Power Plant in Carlos, Texas. This 470-MW coal-fired steam unit increased BTU's generation capacity by over 100 MW. Gibbons Creek Power Plant was retired in 2018.

THE '90S: *Power as Necessity*

Throughout the '80s and '90s, electricity became an indispensable part of life for nearly every citizen. Gone were the days of just using electricity for lighting. This new era required power for an array of technological gadgets, computers, video games and cellular telephones, not to mention the continued rise of central air conditioning systems in homes. All of these factors contributed to a demand for more power – at an annual rate of 7 percent for more than two decades. BTU met these demand challenges head-on with new advances in infrastructure and electrical distribution, making sure that electric rates stayed low while reliability remained high.

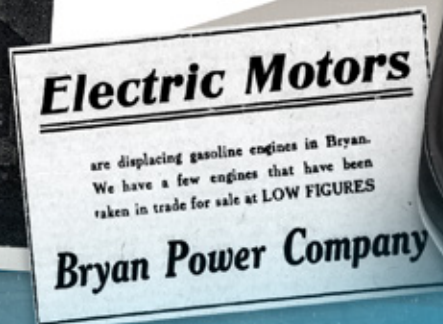
THE 21ST CENTURY: *The Future is Now*

The past 20 years have seen rapid technological advancements. BTU has adopted modern Advanced Metering Infrastructure, enabling real-time power interruption notifications. BTU employees expertly manage daily power supply and demand, through transactions in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) market. BTU incorporates solar and wind power into its diverse energy portfolio while balancing price stability using the four natural gas fired generating units in its fleet.

LOOKING AHEAD

Bryan Texas Utilities stands as a publicly owned, community-powered utility with a century-long legacy of exceeding expectations in reliability, safety, and economical rates. As BTU embraces the future, it continues to innovate and adapt, ensuring that it remains a beacon of progress and a vital resource for the community.

The future of BTU is now, and the outlook is bright.





**AHEAD
OF
THE
STORM**

BRYAN'S PROACTIVE APPROACH TO FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

With Texas leading the nation with flood-related deaths, and many of those from people trying to drive or walk through flooded roadways, the need for resilient infrastructure that automatically alerts the public of danger and combats flooding risks is crucial.

Thanks to a grant from the Flood Infrastructure Fund, the City of Bryan received \$180,000 to help fund a \$450,000 project to implement the Bryan Flood Early Warning System. The project consisted of installing a suite of high floodwater alert sensors for 20 flood-prone roadways in the community. Construction on the project began in 2021 and wrapped up near the end of 2023. The City of Bryan integrated the system with internal online maps to provide dynamic updates with the latest information on flooding and road closures.

"Bryan is like a lot of cities in the state of Texas. We have creeks that run through our city. When we get heavy rainfall events, those creeks rise and water may come over the road. There's a lag time sometimes between when water goes over the road and when a crew can arrive to barricade the road. And in an emergency situation, every minute is crucial," said Sam Vernon, Assistant City Engineer for the City of Bryan.

Once a Bryan Flood Early Warning System gauging station detects rising water, it alerts emergency response crews and city staff in real-time to the road's location and condition allowing them to coordinate preemptive roadway closures. The sensors also will activate a flashing "Turn Around, Don't Drown" beacon to warn drivers and pedestrians in the proximity of the flooded area.

In addition to enhancing safety, the sensors collect rainfall data that will be used to help guide decisions about stormwater-related capital improvement projects and assess how development impacts stormwater flow downstream. All information gathered by the system is stored in a database that archives storms, historical storm recall, and hydrologic data such as water level, streamflow, and precipitation.

City of Bryan's engineering staff pinpointed sensor locations by utilizing historical road closure data, which ranged from heavily-traveled roadways to residential streets that experience flooding during moderate-to-heavy rains.

Future, long-term plans for the Bryan Flood Early Warning System include expanding sensor locations and activating closure text or email notifications to public subscriptions.

The Flood Infrastructure Fund was passed by the 86th Texas Legislature and approved by Texas voters in 2019. The program is administrated by the Texas Water Development Board, and through an application process, provides financial assistance in the form of loans or grants for flood control, flood mitigation, and drainage projects. The Texas Water Development Board collaborates with the Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Texas General Land Office to administer funds.



**TURN
AROUND
DON'T
DROWN**



“The Texas Water Development Board has been a great partner in this project. We had the idea for the longest time. The grant provided a previously unavailable funding opportunity. And so the Flood Infrastructure Fund grant money and the tutelage of the Texas Water Development Board helped us push this project into reality,” said Sam Vernon, Assistant City Engineer for the City of Bryan.

The Bryan Flood Early Warning System is part of the City of Bryan’s Floodplain Management Plan, designed to mitigate risk to people and property from flood hazards. The plan covers 53 measures for the city to implement in response to flooding, profiling hazards including stormwater, and localized flooding, dam failure, erosion, and riverine flooding. The plan’s committee identified five goals:

- **Protect public health and safety from flood dangers.**
- **Increase outreach and public awareness to enhance community response to protecting property from flood damage.**
- **Preserve natural open space, green space, and drainage corridors to protect floodplain functionality.**
- **Improve stormwater management.**
- **Maintain the continuity of critical and essential services by protecting critical infrastructure.**

The plan also follows processes prescribed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the 2017 Community Rating System Coordinator’s Manual. The plan was originally developed in 2007, and subsequently updated in 2012, 2018, and 2023. The City of Bryan currently participates in the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System and qualifies for a Class 8 Rating, which means policyholders within the city are entitled to a 10% discount on their flood insurance premiums.



The City of Bryan’s Engineering Services staff were recognized for their excellence in floodplain management, flood loss mitigation, and public safety practices at this year’s Texas Floodplain Management Association Conference where they brought home the John Patton Community Service Award and the City Floodplain Management Excellence Award.

